(c), (e) and (f) The total interest payments on external debt during 1999-2000 amounted to US Dollar 4,912 million compared to US Dollar 4,781 milion in 1998-99 and US Dollar 4,391 million in 1997-98. As a proportion of Gross Domestic Product at market prices, ratio of interest payments stood around 1.1 per cent of GDP during 1997-98 to 1999-2000.

(d) Government's external debt management policy focuses on achieving high growth of exports, keeping the maturity structure as well as the total commercial debt under manageable limits, restricting short-term debt and encouraging non-debt creating financial flows on external capital account such as direct foreign investment and portfolio investment. As a result, India's external indebtedness position has improved considerably since early 1990s. While debt-to-GDP ratio declined from a high of 38.7 per cent at end-March 1992 to 21.9 per cent at end-March 2000, the debt service payments to current receipts ratio improved from 35.3 per cent in 1990-91 to 16.0 percent in 1999-2000.

Demand of fund for Orissa from EFC

2654. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the fund demanded under various heads by Orissa from the Eleventh Finance Commission;

(b) the amount of allocation recommended by the Finance Commission for Orissa;

(c) whether there is a huge difference between the demand made and actually granted by the Eleventh Finance Commission for Orissa; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) A table showing details of funds demanded under various heads by Orissa from Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) and the funds allocated by EFC is as under:

TABLE

(Rs. in cores)

		State Forecast 2000-2005	Reassessed Estimates 2000-2005
1.	Share in Central Taxes and Duties	14836.00	19026.64
2.	Upgradation and Special Problem Grants	9637.30	215.05
3.	Local Bodies Grant	1566.00	385.55
4.	Grant for Relief Expenditure	525.00	453.66

(d) The Finance Commission makes an assessment of the finances of each State, on the basis of historical data made available to it. While working out the scheme of devolution of funds to States, the Finance Commission has to keep in view the vertical equity between Centre and States as well as the horizontal equity amongst the States keeping in mind also the needs of each State.

Functioning of Nationalised Bank at Bangalore International Airport

2655. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the branches of the Nationalized Bank functioning at various International Airports in the country;

(b) whether the Nationalized Bank functioning in Bangalore International Airport is working round the clock and seven days a week;

(c) if not, whether it has come to the notice of the Government that this has affected the passengers coming to Bangalore from various countries; and

(d) whether Government would take steps to make the Nationalized Bank in Bangalore International Airport to work round the clock and seven days a week?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE-PATIL): (a) As per the records available with Reserve Bank of India, there are 19 Extension Counters and 10 ATMs of Nationalized Bank/Private Banks functioning various Airports.

(b) One Extension Counter each of State Bank of Mysore and Vijaya Bank are functioning at the Bangalore International Airport. The working schedule of these banks at the Extension Counters at the Bangalore Airport is as given below:

	State Bank of Mysore	Vijaya Bank
Location	International Flights arrival Lounge/Customs Office	Domestic arrival lounge
Working Hours	Business Hrs: Shift II: 8.30 AM to 12.30 PM Shift II: 1.30 PM to 5.50 PM Closing Hrs.: Upto 8.00 PM	Business hrs: 8.30 PM to 1.30 PM